from 1.4.96 has also not been able to correct the aberration fully.

(v) Non-remunerative price of washed coal reimbursed by SAIL which resulted in loss * in washery operation also.

(vi) A number of capital intensive project taken up in the past did not succeed which resulted in poor capital productivity.

(vii) Aberration in capital structure of the company over the years as a result of which share capital of the company has become far too low in comparison to the loan capital. This results in high cost on account of interest.

Following action is being taken by BCCL to improve the financial position of the company:—

(i) Increasing capacity utilisation of the mine.

(ii) Rationalisation and redeployment of manpower for gainful deployment.

(iii) Improvement in quality of washed coal by improving the quality of raw coal feed to the washeries and optimising washery operations.

(iv) Special drive has been taken to bring down cost on overtime and Sunday deployment and effect reduction in other items of controllable cost etc.

(v) Introduction of cash and carry system to curb increase in sales outstanding including taking up of special drive for liquidating old outstanding dues.

Filling up of vacant posts of Chairman-cunt-Managing Directors

476. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some interviews were recently conducted for filling up the posts of Chairman-cum-Managing Directors of the subsidiary companies of Coal India Ltd.;

(b) if so, the number of candidates called for interview;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Public Enterprises Selection Board stipulates that a candidates should have a minimum of two years of service at the time of being interviewed; and

(d) if so, how many candidates who had less than two years of service were interviewed and reasons for violating the established norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 21 candidates were called for the interview.

(c) As per extant procedure of the Public Enterprises Selection Board, candidates to be considered for a full time board level post in a Central Public Enterprise should not be above 56 years of age on the date of circulation of the vacancy.

(d) None.

Power purchase agreement between Hinduja and Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board

477. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the .power purchase agreement between the Hinduja company and the Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board;

(b) whether Government have asked the Coal India Ltd. to supply the required coal to Hinduja plaint to be set up in Vizag; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) So far, Mk. Hinduja National Power Corporation Limited and Andhra Pradesh Electricity

Board have not signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for the 1040 MW Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project. The PPA, when finalised would have to co-ordinate the related contracts associated with project finance, such as the Engineering Procurement and Construction Contract, Fuel Supply and Transportation Agreement, Operations and Maintenance contract and Equity and Financing agreements, under a specific common term, termination and performance obligations. In general, it defines the boundary conditions for the contracting agencies to operate, bringing out their respective responsibilities, obligations to each other and performance expectations.

(b) and (c) The Government have recently resolved certain issues necessary to enable CILCoal Company to supply washed coal to the power station being set up by M/s. Hinduja National Power Corporation Ltd. (HNPCL) at Visakhapatnam. Coal India Limited is in the process of preparing a legally enforceable Coal Supply and Transport Contract for supply of coal to this power station to be entered into between *Nl/s.* HNPCL and MCL.

Modernisation work in coal mines in Maharashtra

478. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether CIL has taken up modernisation work and application of new technologies in the coal mines situated in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof, minewise;

(c) whether these steps of GIL are likely to augment the production of coal in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) 50 coal mines are being worked by Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) in the State of Maharashtra. Out of these coal mines, 25 mines are opencast and 25 are underground. All opencast mines are mechanised and are being worked by moderivhew technology deploying dragline, shovels, etc. Out of 25 underground coal mines, modernisation[7] new technology has been introduced in 11 coal mines. The list of opencast mines[7] coal projects are indicated in Statement-I and II *(see* below). The names of UG mines where modernisation has been introduced is given in Annexurc-II. In addition, modern communication system has been introduced in all mines.

(c) and (d) Steps taken by the Company (WCL) in this regard have resulted in increasing the production in the State of Maharashtra which is evident from the table given below:

(Production in M. Tcs.)

	1994-95	199.5-96	1996-97
Production of WCL from mines in Maharashtra	21.07	22.82	24.86

Statcmcnt-I

NAME OF PRODUCING OPENCAST MINES IN MAHARASHTRA STATE

1. Ballarpur
2. Ga'uri-I
3. Gauri-II
4. New Dhuptala Sector-C
5. Sasti
6. Bhatadih
7. Durgapur
8. Hindustan Lalpeth
9. Padampur
10. Ghugus
11. Niljai-I
12. Niljai-II
13. Mugoli
14. NaigaoivBellora
15. Kolarpimpri